



By the King.

A Proclamation providing for the relief of Maimed, Shipwreckt, and other distressed Sea-men, their VVidows, and Children.



Hereas upon the Petition, aswell of the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinity House, as of divers other Owners, Officers, and common Sea-men and Mariners, who sued to His Majestie, and voluntarily offered their consents, That for the Relief, Comfort, and Incouragement of such Sea-men and Mariners as should be hereafter Maimed, and for the Widdows of such as should have their husbands killed, or lost in Merchandizing Voyages, and for poor Shipwreckt men, that some settled course might by His Majestie be directed and taken, by way of contribution, to be made and raised out of the wages of all Sea-men and Mariners that serve in Merchants Ships, and Merchandizing Voyages; His Majestie, having taken the same into His Princely consideration, and well approving thereof as a pious and charitable work, and for the establishment thereof, for the common good of all Sea-men His Majesties Subjects in all succeeding times; Doth (with the advice of His Privie Councell, and according to the voluntary offer and suit of a great number of the principall Mariners and Sea-men of the Kingdome) will and Ordain; That for the Relief and Comfort of such Mariners and Sea-men as shall be hereafter Maimed at Sea, and for such poor Women and Children as shall have their husbands or fathers killed or lost in Merchandizing Voyages, and for poor distressed Shipwreckt men, That every Owner and Master of any Ship, that from henceforth shall crosse the Seas, and Trade in Merchandizing Voyages out of, or into the River of Thames (except the East-India Company, who have a provision of this kinde already settled) at their return home shall collect and receive out of every one of their Sea-mens wages, these severall sums following, (viz) from the Master Twelve-pence per Moneth, from the Masters Mates, Gunners, Boatswains, Carpenters, Chirurgions, and Purser, each of them Six-pence per Moneth, and from all the rest of the Sea-men, each of them Four-pence per Moneth, for every Moneths wages which shall grow due to them in their severall Voyages; And for such Ships, which shall Trade in Merchandize, and crosse the Seas, having their men hired by the Voyage, That the Owners and Masters of all such Ships shall collect and receive out of every of their Sea-mens wages according to the Monethly rates or proportions aforesaid: And for all Ships Trading to New-castle, and amongst the Coast coming into the said River of Thames, That the Owners and Masters of all such Ships, at the return of every Voyage, shall collect out of the Masters wages Twelve-pence for every Voyage, and out of the wages of every other of their Sea-men Six-pence for every such Voyage.

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And his Majestie doth further will and ordain, That the moneys so collected, shall by the said Owners or Masters of the said Ships, from time to time be brought into the Trinity House at Redcliffe, within six dayes after the discharge of their severall ladinges, and payment of their severall wages; and shall there deliver and pay the same unto the Clerk appointed by the said Company for that purpose, to be immediately put into a Chest under five Locks and Keys, to remain in the severall custodies, of the Master, two elder Wardens, and two eldest Assistants, of the said Trinity House for the time being. And his Majestie doth hereby require and command, that the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Trinity House, or the greater part of them, shall dispose and distribute the said moneys to them so payed, to such poor Sea-men as shall be maimed, and such poor distressed women and children, as shall have their husbands, or fathers killed or lost in Merchandizing voyages, and to such poor distressed shipwreckt men, and to all of them where they shall finde most need, according to their best discretions, and to none other or others whatsoever; The said distribution to be by them made, either upon their own certain knowledge, or by certificates of sufficient honest men, well known to them or some of them.

And to that purpose, That the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinity House shall appoint four severall dayes for the issuing or giving out of the said moneys quarterly, and those dayes to be made certain and published, that such poor people may know at what times to resort to the said Trinity House for the said relief: At which dayes appointed for distribution of the said moneys, the said Master, Wardens and Assistants are required to meet together to see and examine who have most need of relief, and to take speciall care that such may be relieved accordingly.

And his Majesties will and pleasure is, That the Clerk appointed by the said Company for receiving of these moneys, shall keep one or more Book or Books, wherein he shall from time to time justly enter the severall Receipts & payments of the same: And that the said Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Trinity House, upon demand shall give true and perfect Accompts from time to time to the Lord high Admirall of England, for the time being, or to such as hee shall appoint, of all their Receipts, and disbursements touching this businesse. And for the better effecting and establishing of this so good a work, which concerns the relief of so many maimed, poor and distressed people; his Majesty hereby straitly chargeth and commandeth all Owners and Masters of ships to whom it shall appertain, That they and every of them, do take speciall care that the said Collections and payments of the severall summes herein before expressed, be from time to time duely made within six dayes next after the discharge of their severall Ladings, or payment of their severall wages as aforesaid, to the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, or their Clerk or deputy for the time being at the Trinity House aforesaid, upon pain of his Majesties high displeasure, and such punishment as shall be meet to be inflicted for the contempt or neglect of his Majesties Royall will and pleasure herein declared.

Given at Whitehall the 25. day of November, in the fourteenth yeer of His Majesties Reign.

¶ God save the King

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to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the
Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1638.

